

# The Hammer Times

Operation Enduring Freedom 07-09



## Message from the Battalion Commander

B/62<sup>nd</sup> achieved mission success and redeploys back to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma this month. Their accomplishments during Operation Enduring Freedom 08-09 have been immense. During their 15-month deployment, B/62<sup>nd</sup> built two new Forward Operating Bases in Regional Command-South vicinity of Kandahar (FOB Maywand and COP Terminator); expanded FOBs Morales-Frazier, Kutzbach in the French sector and FOB Ghazni for the Polish Battle Group; built Super Sea-Hut TOCs, B-Huts, and Guards across Regional Command-South and Regional Command-East; and repaired road culverts and built road bypasses on Route Audi and Highway 1. Battledawg Soldiers attacked every construction task with vigor and technical expertise. They built roads, operating bases, and force protection structures in support of maneuver forces. Strong leaders during this entire deployment inspired their Soldiers with the will and skill to win in combat. Homestation training that focused on basic combat and engineer led tasks proved to be a prerequisite to their overwhelming success. Finally, throughout their deployment was a strong Family Readiness Group and Rear Detachment that greatly supported each Soldier and their Family. In the end, B/62<sup>nd</sup> made the difference and proved their mettle as builders of choice.



**1st plt, B Co, with a recently completed guard tower at FOB Wolverine**

With the departure of B/62<sup>nd</sup> is the arrival of 166<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company from Alabama. The 166<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Vertical) was federally recognized as part of the Alabama Army National Guard on 21 April 1953 in Winfield, Alabama. The unit is part of the 877<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion out of Hamilton, Alabama. The 166<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company is the only Vertical Construction Company within the Battalion. In 2003-2004 the unit deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



**SSG Pace and 2/B/62 Soldiers build a hard hut at COP Terminator**

Hats off to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion Rear Detachment who recently placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the III(US) Corps Cardboard Recycling Challenge. 1<sup>st</sup> Place had 42,000 lbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place had 21,000lbs, and we had 7,370lbs. The award and \$500 will be presented to our Rear Detachment at this month's CSC meeting on 22 Apr 09. Simply outstanding effort by Soldiers and Families supporting their deployed units!

## Message from the Battalion Command Sergeant Major

First I want to start off with congratulating the following Staff Sergeant whom have been selected for promotion to Sergeant First Class on the FY09 SFC Selection board. HSC: SSG Clark, SSG Liendo A co: SSG Lee B co: SSG Butler C co: SSG Sibson, SSG Bowers 68<sup>th</sup>: SSG Carraballo, and SSG Jones. In addition, SSG Serros, our 36<sup>th</sup> Bde Career Counselor, was selected as well. Congratulations to these NCO's, the promotions are well deserved.

I want to welcome the 166<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company from Winfield, Alabama, that is replacing Bravo Company. They are on the ground now and starting their Relief in Place (RIP) process. I'm sure they will pick right up where the Battledawgs left off.

The Battledawgs of B Co are well on their way to setting the conditions for their redeployment back to Fort Sill. It's not easy moving a heavy construction company from Afghanistan back to Fort Sill, but B Co has done a lot of work to make sure it goes smoothly and that everyone will get back safely.

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While B Co transitions out and the 166<sup>th</sup> transitions in, life goes on in the construction business and we are in no short supply of projects. The rest of the Battalion is hard at work to get the projects done on time. Mother Nature had a vote these past few weeks with rain. Rain can be a good thing in small amounts when compacting earth, but in large quantities it can wreak havoc on a project site.

Lastly, we can't loose sight of the fact that we are still deployed and still have a mission to complete. Our mission will not be complete until we get everyone back home safely.

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## Headquarters and Support Company "Pale Riders"

The HSC Paleriders are happily beginning the initial stages of preparation in order to have a successful redeployment. Although there are many tasks and missions to be accomplished, the company is getting its second wind and striving to complete the deployment with the same motivation and effort as it began. The outstanding performance of the company is a testament to the character of the Palerider Soldiers and your enduring support from home.



**Equipment platoon spreads gravel at FOB Shank**

to retrieve A Company equipment from an austere Forward Operating Base (FOB). The platoon logged many miles in order to get the equipment to a location where it could be repaired and again be used by A Company Soldiers on their missions. Additionally, there are approximately twenty Soldiers attached to A Company in support of the expansion of a critical FOB in the central eastern portion of Afghanistan. These Soldiers are part of A Company's 24-hour construction operations.

Hardworking. Dedicated. Motivated. Technically Superior. Those are just some of the adjectives that describe the HSC organizational and direct support maintenance sections. These unsung heroes of the deployment continue to excel at every opportunity. They often work long into the night repairing critical construction equipment. Words do not do justice to the amazing accomplishments of the mechanics, machinists, welders and administrative clerks of the both maintenance sections. The Palerider mechanics receive praise from every unit they support and are always willing and able to make the difference on the FOB or on the road.

I would like to draw attention to the outstanding support of the S4 section of the battalion. Led by CPT Sisk and SFC Martinez, these fine Soldiers and NCOs do a great deal of coordination in order to sustain the battalion's operational tempo. The PBO Section led by CW2 Williams is heavily involved in processing battalion and division level equipment transactions and maintaining the accountability standards of five companies. At FOB Sharana the S4 section, consisting of SGT Barber, PFC Watkins and SPC Saldivar, work diligently to provide logistical support to the entire battalion.

It may be redundant, but once again I want to express our sincerest thanks for all of your support. The outpouring of packages and letters make a tremendous impact on the ability of your Soldier to have a positive outlook throughout this extremely long deployment.

Despite the numerous challenges a fifteen month deployment presents, your Soldiers always perform their duties in a professional and exceptional manner. The company continues to support missions throughout Afghanistan. Currently, there are Paleriders supporting every company with either direct maintenance support, medics or communications support.

The battalion's Administrative and Logistical Operations Center (ALOC) provides great support to every company. They secured equipment and supplies that are essential in supporting the Soldiers of the 68<sup>th</sup> CSE in their efforts to expand a critical FOB. SFC Martinez and SPC Reyes drew a Morale and Welfare phone and computer system that will allow the Soldiers of the 68<sup>th</sup> to communicate with their loved ones on a more frequent basis.

The Equipment Platoon (EQ) supported two critical battalion missions. Nearly twenty EQ Soldiers were involved in two separate movements



**SPC Pinnock constructs interior walls for living area**

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## Alpha Company “Gators”

A Company remains engaged in our largest and most ambitious project yet, the Phase II expansion of FOB Shank. Over the past month, your Soldiers have turned a muddy pit into an emerging airfield. It now has roads, a nearly completed headquarters building, helipads, a small dining facility, a secure perimeter, guard towers, and a small entry control point.



**1st Platoon Soldiers erecting a hard hut at COP Deysie**

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon will complete the new headquarters building for the Aviation Task Force before you receive this newsletter. They spent a great deal of time this winter pre-fabricating roof trusses, walls, floor joists, and footers in preparation for this vital facility. As a result of their forward thinking and planning, they will have spent only 20 days erecting the building from their pre-fabricated parts. This building is over 7,000 square feet, and to complete it in so little time is a notable accomplishment for this platoon.

Earthmoving Platoon continues working around the clock to prepare the airfield for the arrival of helicopters. Aided by the Equipment Platoon from Headquarters and Support Company, they work a day shift and a night shift to keep working on the airfield whenever the opportunity presents itself. We have had a lot of rain over the last several weeks, which has made the earthwork challenging. The

earthmovers have tried to stay busy by working lower priority areas that are already dry, rather than wait for the priority areas to dry enough to make them workable with the heavy equipment.

Maintenance Platoon has been a vital contributor to the earthmoving mission this past month. Like the Earthmovers, the maintenance Soldiers have worked shifts around the clock. Because of their dedicated efforts, the company continues in this critical mission. SGT Andre Williams and SPC Patrick Belcher deserve special recognition for their outstanding work throughout every night. These Soldiers have uncomplainingly worked night after night, and have often stayed into the following shift to ensure the repairs get completed as needed.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is wrapping up their work at Combat Outposts Deysie and Narizah. For many long months, SFC Baker-Benitez and ILT Barnes have led separate elements as they worked to complete these outposts. Their work has made a tangible difference to the Soldiers that occupy these lonely outposts. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has provided warm, safe billeting, hot showers, flushing toilets, and dining facilities.



**EM working late hours at FOB Shank**

Your Soldiers continue to make long-lasting contributions to the United States-led efforts in Afghanistan. They have certainly made a difference in the future of Afghanistan.

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## Bravo Company "Battledawgs"

### COMMANDER

As we close out our 15 month deployment I want to say how proud I am of the Soldiers and families of Bravo Company, 62<sup>nd</sup> ECB (H). This has been a long road paved with difficulties and hard missions. The Battledawgs have always taken to every project with 100% motivation and technical expertise. They have truly lived the motto of the battalion to "Build the Battlefield". The effect this company has had on the country of Afghanistan will be evident for many years to come. To all of the families of Battledawg Soldiers I want to say thank you. I know the time you've spent being separated from your loved one was just as difficult as our mission over here. Your words of encouragement and continued support have made the load a little lighter. I look forward to seeing you all in person in just a few short days. To the Soldiers of Bravo Company, your hard work and dedication over the last 15 months has been phenomenal, you have truly set the standard for what a construction company can do in combat.

### FIRST SERGEANT

Before long, the amazing Soldiers of Bravo Company will be reunited with their loved ones after a long 15 month deployment. There is a long list of accomplishments that took place during this time period. However, the main focus remains finishing the phase IV expansion on FOB Maywand and the extremely solid guard towers. Not a day goes by were the past mission accomplishments are not mentioned by our fellow Soldiers. **Way to go Bravo Company Soldiers! – Battledawgs**

### FIRST PLATOON

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has been keeping busy during the month of March, building several guard towers at FOB Wolverine. Despite delays due to lumber shortages, the Soldiers have constructed ten guard towers this month, providing force protection for our living area, as well as the future site of FOB Wolverine. With less than one month left in country, the Soldiers have been busy packing up all of our equipment and tools in preparation to return home. In the next couple of weeks, we will train the unit that will replace Bravo Company on techniques and tactics we have learned throughout the past 15 months and then conduct an official relief-in-place before heading back to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



**1st plt Soldiers make sure a guard tower post is level before placing concrete**



**2nd plt builds a hard hut at Terminator**

### SECOND PLATOON

March was a month of celebrations and a frantic construction pace on the jobsite. The Soldiers in the platoon have been split between guard tower construction at FOB Maywand and the remaining hard hut work at COP Terminator. In addition to building 6 guard towers and 3 hard huts, the Soldiers also inventoried, labeled, and shipped their extra TA-50 and personal gear. If you've been through one of these deployments with your Soldier before then you know that this is a sure sign that "Fort Living Room" is very close indeed.

The downside to being this close to going home is the fact that we now have to live out of our rucksacks. Rest assured that SFC Baldrige, SSG Pace, SSG Francolaboy, and SSG Teodoro keep the Soldiers engaged in the mission. This keeps them focused on what they are here to accomplish for their country and the families that are counting on them back at home. As the spring season begins to spread its warmth across the lands of Afghanistan we look forward to celebrating this season of renewal and rebirth as we prepare for the highly anticipated homecoming at Ft. Sill. These fine men and women are the rare few who are willing to do so much for a people who have so little.

### MAINTENANCE PLATOON

The clock is ticking...In the last Newsletter submission I talked about our 60-day countdown, now we are below 30 days! We have packed up every single conex with all of our gear, equipment, and parts. The rough living conditions that we have grown accustomed too will soon be history and we will know what it is like to have running water in our houses and barracks rooms, and a bathroom in our own bedroom! We will soon have the ability to leave what we would consider our neighborhood.

Every conversation is filled with the talk about the Welcome Home Ceremony. "What's the very first thing you will do as soon as we hit Oklahoma?" Some want to go get hotel rooms, while others just want to go home take a shower and sit on there couch in civilian clothes with their feet kicked up on there coffee table, spending time with family.

As I write for the last time this deployment, thank you for trusting us with your sons and daughters, husbands and wives, or children. I am looking forward to giving them back to you for 30 days of block leave.

### EARTHMOVERS PLATOON

The Earth Movers platoon has continued to shine in the month of March. EM is still going full strength and has demonstrated this by completing a number of missions on FOB Maywand. EM has expanded the FOB yet again, constructed new tower positions, improved the entry control point (ECP); spread over 8,000 cubic meters of gravel, installed culverts and began working on an expanded HLZ for the FOB. EM has continued to multitask and work efficiently to maximize productivity and continued to impress everyone that sees EM work.

One of the most amazing things about this platoon is the fact that EM continues to accomplish so much despite having shipped 90% of its construction equipment to Sharana. All the Soldiers and NCOs have worked closely with local national operators to continue the missions and accomplish the tasks at hand. Several EM Soldiers have begun moving to other locations to coordinate important tasks for the company's redeployment.

The month of March was a busy one for EM and the rest of Bravo Company as we have simultaneously managed to continue working full swing and also make strides towards preparing to come home. EM will soon be saying, "Vini, vidi, vamanos!" as we finish up the last month of this 15 month deployment. Battledawgs!

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## Charlie Company “Cobras”

Charlie Company is moving at full speed as they prepare for their last full month in country. Each platoon is fully engaged, and working hard to complete ground work, guard towers, B-Huts and more as they pack to return to FT Hood. EM is leading the way once again out at a new COP, COP Xio Haq. First platoon completed their work up at COP Monti and has already completed the



**Leveling an existing wall at Xio Haq**

construction of a guard tower at COP Xio Haq. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is making great progress in their task to build 20 B-Huts, 3 shower and latrine B-Huts, and a Company tactical operations center (TOC) at COP Penich.

EM platoon has begun work at COP Xio Haq and is making vast improvements to the COP already. They are working with Afghan National Army Engineers to emplace an 11-foot HESCO perimeter wall, and are preparing the ground for 1<sup>st</sup> platoon to build guard towers and B-Huts. The platoon is pushing a lot of dirt, clearing a number of large hills, and preparing a helicopter landing zone (HLZ), fuel farm, and preparing the ground for the living areas.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon completed their mission to build 12 B-Huts at COP Monti. They had a brief break at Fenty, but are already back out on the project site and hard at work. Following right behind EM platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon is building guard towers, a SEA Hut TOC, and B-Huts for the Soldiers out at COP Xio Haq. They are moving quickly, and have already completed a guard tower and started on additional towers and B-Huts. They are also conducting quality assurance for a local contractor who is building B-Huts for the COP as well.

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon has completed a massive amount of work at COP Penich in the last month. They have started work on over 20 B-Huts, and the Soldiers of Attack Company, the unit occupying COP Penich, are already moving in. Despite a lot of rainy weather, the platoon has not let up, and soon they will have completed enough B-Huts to get all of the Soldiers at COP Penich out of their tents and into a “Cobra Built” B-Hut.

The number of convoys that the convoy team has conducted decreased this month, but that does not mean that they are not hard at work. A squad each from EM and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon moved down south to FOB Wolverine for the month in order to assist 68<sup>th</sup> CSE with a high priority project. The Soldiers of the convoy team have been given some much needed assistance to both EM and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon at COP Xio Haq. They are still pushing mail and supplied back and forth to Xio Haq, but are getting in their share of carpentry and earthmoving in between trips.



**An ANA Engineer loads fill into a C Co scraper**



**SPC Harrell and other 2nd platoon Soldiers sheath B-Hut floors at Penich**

Headquarters has been busy both supporting the ongoing missions, and preparing the company to re-deploy. The Soldiers of headquarters are preparing redeployment files, preparing the paperwork for packing containers, and collecting the information needed to make the transition back to FT Hood an easy one. The maintenance section has been doing an outstanding job of keeping EM's equipment running, and preparing the fleet and our motor pool for the arrival of the 1613<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Company. They have been busy repairing the heavy equipment, and conducting technical inspections to make sure that everything is in great shape for our replacements.

As we near the end of our time on Afghanistan the Soldiers of Charlie Company are not letting up. There is a lot of work left to be done, and we look forward to completing as much as possible before we head home.



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## 68<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Equipment “Trailblazers”



**SPC Gonzalez receives a haircut  
courtesy of ISG Moose**

Hello once again Trailblazer friends and family. The past month has been relatively smooth and we have not seen much change across the company. Slowly but surely most of the Trailblazer team moved into FOB Wolverine as we massed efforts on running the FOB. Our main focus remains the construction of FOB Wolverine in RC South. During the month of March, taking time for a deep breath was almost impossible as we executed construction at a rapid pace. This however has not held true for the early days of April. While we had no rain in March, April has had limited glimpses of sunshine and clear skies. Although the hiatus from the breakneck pace was needed for a day, our Soldiers are eager to continue construction operations.

During the past month 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, now led by SFC Parrish, oversaw the construction of a 700 x 600 square foot Life Support Area (LSA). Although the size appears relatively small in comparison to the kilometers of roads the company has constructed over the past year, the written text cannot capture the work put forth by the platoon. This mission required moving over 40,000 cubic

meters of fill in order to raise the ground as much as 14ft and after moving a mountain they immediately started construction on another goliath. The follow-on mission, much like the previous, will require the same amount of engineer effort but the troops are fully prepared for the task at hand.

As 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon moved their mountain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was moving one of their own. Tasked with the construction of a similar size pad with the same engineering challenges, they however were not afforded the same assets and had to rely heavily on locally contracted equipment. SSG Jannicke and LT Park quickly found themselves fluent in sign language as they communicated with local nationals ensuring they understood the tasks at hand needed to complete their mission. Although the end of their project was hindered by rain, they tirelessly moved forward and constructed an Entry Control Point, finishing the project four days ahead of schedule.



**SPC Rodriguez takes a moment to  
appreciate the task at hand**

With 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons requiring the bulk of the equipment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon assumed night operations in order to ensure the company continuously maintained forward momentum on every project. During night operations they completed the construction of a 840K gallon fuel point, emplaced nearly 1 kilometer of HESCOs and moved over 10,000 cubic meters of fill. Executed deliberately in order to ensure the safety of our troops, their operation although slow was instrumental in meeting the required deadlines.



**SGT Chilton inventories and  
sets up gym**

The month of April is the line-in-the-sand for most of the Soldiers in the 68<sup>th</sup> CSE. With the passing of this month, the company will have spent a year deployed. However as we reflect back on the past year there is so much that has transpired both here in Afghanistan and at home. The last of the troops are finally going on leave and when they return we will be going down the final stretch. Thank you all for your support, for you are the driving fourth behind each and every Soldier!

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## Soldier Highlights

PFC Daniel Manso, HSC, is a proud native of Miami, Florida. He is an exceptional member of the Direct Support Maintenance team. PFC Manso has established himself as a great engineer equipment repairer who is not afraid to accept any challenge given to him. He has taken the initiative to cross-train and learn the duties and responsibilities of a light wheeled vehicle mechanic. Within the last month alone PFC Manso has completed numerous work orders, including changing an engine on a small equipment excavator (SEE), changing two M916 axles and the rebuilding of two M916 fifth-wheel assemblies. PFC Manso is always taking the initiative to accomplish the mission. His outstanding attitude and commitment to duty make him a valuable asset within the Direct Support Maintenance section and the Palerider community. Without a question, PFC Manso's hard work and dedication to duty assisted the battalion in successfully moving equipment throughout the battlefield.



SGT (P) Timothy P. Rogers, A Co, was born in Marion, South Carolina in 1971, and graduated Lakeview High School in 1990. He and his wife Tammy have two daughters, Jessica and Miranda, and a grandson, Eli. Prior to joining the Army in February 2003, he worked in the construction field for 13 years. After graduating AIT with the MOS of 21E (Heavy Construction Equipment Operator), he was assigned to A Company, 62<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. While assigned to A Company, he assisted in the construction of the United States' longest span Bailey bridge at Eagle Pass, Texas, participated in a rotation at the National Training Center, and was selected to serve as a member of a specially-trained guard for the President of the United States' visit to Fort Hood. SGT Rogers has previously deployed with A Company to Iraq during 2006, and is currently serving in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, he has directed the construction of over 9,500 feet of earth-filled HESCO barriers, protecting US Soldiers at FOB Shank, and led the construction of drainage structures and culverts and the interior roads construction on the Shank Phase I expansion. This past week, he was examined by a promotion board and selected as eligible for promotion to Staff Sergeant.



This month, 68<sup>th</sup> CSE would like to recognize CPL Gregory Davenport for his hard work and dedication. CPL Davenport is a Petroleum Supply Specialist commonly known as a "fueler," and he definitely takes pride in doing his mission. On a daily basis, he is seen in the background operating his vehicle from one location to another ensuring every generator, heater and vehicle is fueled. With the daily operational tempo, this minor but extremely vital task is easily forgotten as we continuously move mountains. CPL Davenport is the unsung hero on the battlefield. Three times a day he fuels each and every piece of engineer equipment. The pride taken in the execution of his chosen MOS is what every leader wants their Soldiers to display. In the routine execution of his duties, CPL Davenport has enabled the company's success.



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## Soldier Highlights

B Company's SPC Abimael Rivera has displayed a tremendous work ethic throughout this deployment. Achieving his promotable status early in the deployment, SPC Rivera is a natural motivator to the other Soldiers and displays outstanding leadership skills. SPC Rivera's dedication has contributed to the completion of several projects over the past 15 months. He was a key participant in the construction of ten guard towers at FOB Wolverine. Working in full combat load, he pushed himself and his peers to complete the mission. Hailing from New York, SPC Rivera looks forward to returning home to spend time with his wife, Rose-Marie, and daughter, Dnijah.



SPC Steven Croxton and PFC Jonathan Hughey have been a great asset to Charlie Company for over six months. They immediately became an integral part of the Cobra maintenance team, and have made great contributions to the success of the company. Despite their limited experience on construction equipment, they have spent countless hours repairing crucial pieces of heavy engineer equipment to keep the Cobras running. They have replaced three scraper transmissions, two 5-ton engines, one grader engine, one M916 engine and transmission, and three D7 engines, in addition to assisting with required services in order to keep EM platoon moving on the project site. Both SPC Croxton and PFC Hughey work hard and have greatly expanded their expertise. Charlie Company has been lucky to have them as part of the Cobra team.



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## Chaplain's Corner

Greetings 62<sup>nd</sup> Family,

Another month has come and gone, bringing us ever closer to home. Most of us are past the "Post Mid-Tour Blues" and seem to be taking things one day at a time. Those of us who leave soon are considered to be in the 11<sup>th</sup> month slump, greatly considering all of the things that might have taken place over the past year in our absence. Facing changes like the greater independence of spouse and family, children behaving differently, personality changes, and even new homes for some of us can make thoughts of coming home a little worrisome. Though most of us still have a few months before coming home, we can all nip some of the worry in the bud before we reunite with family. The best way, I think, is "Communicate, communicate, communicate!" Not just about your daily activities but about your fears, hopes and dreams for tomorrow as well.

I know that most men are not the best at sharing their "stuff," Soldiers in particular. But it is important to hash things out together before trying to get back into the swing of things at home. While women, in general are good at talking things out, men tend to want to retreat to a state of contemplation and figure things out before speaking. Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of both, and work together to express yourselves as couples. Those who are single might benefit from finding a qualified listener to share with as well. Chaplains are usually qualified, I think.

Dream together about what could and should be. Develop a vision as individuals, couples, or families, whichever situation you are in. Look beyond the reuniting vacation to ask one another, "Where do I want to be in two years? Five years? Ten years?" Then work together towards a plan to get there. I'm fond of saying "Ten years is going to get here one way or the other. It's what we do now that makes the difference of who, what, and where we will be at that time." We are always at the door of new beginnings. So plan the journey into the unknown together.

For those who have had a more difficult year than others, I don't mean to make light of the struggle. I know the separation has been very tough on a number of families, a few, much more than others. But I truly believe that hope lies ahead for us all. And as we have come so far already, I hope you can look forward to brighter tomorrows with the rest of us. I leave you with this poem from Helen Steiner Rice:

***Today's Joy was born of yesterdays sorrow.***

*Who said the darkness of night would never turn to day?  
Who said the "winter's bleakness" would never pass away?*

*Who said the fog would never lift and let the sunshine through?  
Who said the skies now overcast would nevermore be blue?*

*Why should we ever entertain these thoughts so dark and grim  
and let the brightness of our mind grow cynical and dim?*

*When we know beyond all questioning that winter turns to spring  
and on the notes of sorrow new songs are made to sing.*

*For no one sheds a teardrop or suffers loss in vain,  
For God is always there to turn our losses into gain.*

*And every burden born TODAY and every present sorrow  
Are but God's happy harbingers of a joyous, bright TOMORROW!*



Blessings All,  
CH EEZ

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